

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248496

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, SN

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYD AL
RIFA'I ON KOREA

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO
FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR ZAYD:

I AM WRITING TO YOU BECAUSE OF MY CONCERN ABOUT THE COMING
UNITED NATIONS DEBATE ON KOREA. I KNOW THAT TOM
PICKERING HAS ALREADY REVIEWED OUR POSITION WITH YOU AND WE
CAN APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWPOINT. NONETHELESS, I STILL
WANTED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU PERSONALLY ON THIS MATTER.

THE KOREAN ITEM IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE ON THE UN
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA THIS YEAR AS FAR AS THE UNITED

STATES IS CONCERNED. THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE DEBATE WILL BE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE PENINSULA. I RECOGNIZE THAT MANY UN MEMBERS BELIEVE - AND THE UNITED STATES AGREES - THAT IT IS TIME TO TERMINATE THE UN COMMAND. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL TO TERMINATE THE COMMAND WHICH FAILS TO

PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN OF SUCH IMPORTANCE IN KEEPING THE PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONTINUED STABILITY IN THE AREA AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN THIS STABILITY MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKE RESPONSIBLE ACTION IN THIS DEBATE.

THE RESOLUTION WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS JOINED IN COSPONSORING IS DESIGNED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PREVIOUS UN DECISIONS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AND TO THE NEEDS FOR MAINTAINING PEACE ON THE PENINSULA. IT PROVIDES FOR TERMINATION OF THE UN COMMAND. IT DOES THIS WITHOUT UPSETTING THE PRINCIPAL MECHANISM FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN KOREA, THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT OF 1953, BECAUSE IT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE UN COMMAND, AS SIGNATORY TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, CAN BE REPLACED ONLY WHEN A SUBSTITUTE MECHANISM FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE IS AGREED BY ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE RESOLUTION RESPONDS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ENDORSEMENT IN THE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION OF 1973, REAFFIRMED LAST YEAR, OF TALKS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA BY CALLING FOR A CONFERENCE BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WITH THE ARMISTICE WHICH INCLUDES SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT FORESEES A CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD FIRST PROVIDE NEW MECHANISMS FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE BUT WHICH COULD THEN GO ON TO CONSIDER MORE LASTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR REDUCING TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA.

THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF NORTH KOREA DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS BECAUSE IT CALLS FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE
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"REAL PARTIES" WHICH NORTH KOREA IDENTIFIES AS THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA, EXCLUDING SOUTH KOREA WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL PARTY TO ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. IT CALLS FOR REMOVING THE UN COMMAND WITHOUT ANY PROVISION FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE MECHANISM WHILE DISCUSSIONS OF A "PEACE AGREEMENT" PROCEED. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS "UNDER THE UN FLAG" WHICH NORTH KOREA MAKES CLEAR ARE U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA. THESE

TROOPS ARE IN KOREA UNDER A U.S.-ROK BILATERAL AGREEMENT
AT THE INVITATION OF THE ROK. NORTH KOREA, I NOTE,
MAINTAINS TREATIES OF MUTUAL DEFENSE WITH BOTH THE SOVIET
UNION AND THE PRC.

THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY
ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, IS BLATANTLY ONESIDED IN

IGNORING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND INTERFERES IN AN
IMPORTANT U.S. SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ROK.
BECAUSE OF THE VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS DESCRIBED
ABOVE AND OUR CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP I HOPE YOU
WILL INSTRUCT YOUR DELEGATION IN NEW YORK TO VOTE AGAINST
THIS RESOLUTION. I ALSO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I
APPRECIATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION TO VOTE FOR OUR
RESOLUTION AND TO SUPPORT US ON THE PRIORITY QUESTION.

IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS FURTHER,
I KNOW TOM PICKERING WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH YOU.
BEST REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER.

END TEXT.

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